Subject: talismans vs. coins

Eltonhead, A.L.

[Philadelphia, PA]

1929

6605 No. Opal St.
Phila Pa. June 6th 1929.

Mr. Howland Wood

My dear Sir;

I am enclosing "rubbings" of two coins to you for identification at the request of Mr. Chapman, who says you are the only man in America who can tell what they are and what I can do with them.

Hoping to you may I remain

Yours Truly

A. L. Ellenhead

10th June, 1929

Mr. A. L. Eltonhead,
6605 No. Opal Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Your letter enclosing rubbing came to hand the other day. Unfortunately, neither of the two pieces you have are coins. The square one is a talisman for Mohammedans. It is in imitation of the square rupee of the Emperor Akbar; originals for a long time have been thought to have talismanic qualities.

The round one was designed for the Hindu population; nearly every one ever seen is different, illustrating some incident or phase in their religious history. It seems to be a practice to sell these in bazaars to tourists as coins, as nearly every tourist brings back one or two of them.

Very truly yours,

Curator